



Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities

Celebrating 32 Years of Leadership & Advocacy

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MEMBERS

Kecia B. Weller
President

Janet A. Neal
1st Vice President

Harley D. Rubenstein
2nd Vice President

Bernard Siegel
Treasurer

Mary Chambers
Wan Chun Chang
Michael G. Gureckas
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Donna Pomerantz
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Wendy L. Welt
Sheila D. Wright

MINUTES OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY COMMISSION ON DISABILITIES

The regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Commission on Disabilities was held on Wednesday, May 21, 2008, in Room 140 of the Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration, 500 West Temple Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Kecia B. Weller at 1:10 p.m. Roll call was taken by Ms. Rosemary Osuna, and the following Commissioners were present: President Keller, Treasurer Siegel, Commissioners Mary Chambers, Michael G. Gureckas, Maria Mustelier-Parrish, Donna Pomerantz, Alexia Teran, John Troost, Sheila Wright and Steven Thompson for Wan Chun Chan. 1st Vice President Janet A. Neil, 2nd Vice President Harley D. Rubenstein and Commissioner Wendy L. Welt were not present.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 16, 2008 MINUTES

On motion of Commissioner Siegel, seconded by Commissioner Thompson, and unanimously carried, the minutes for the meeting of April 16, 2008 were approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Weller reported that the Nominating Committee met before this meeting and will report a Slate of Officers, today. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted for the 2008-09 Offices of President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President, and Treasurer. Upon completion of nominations and no later than June 11, 2008, Commission staff will mail a full Slate of Officers to Commission members along with copies of the Declaration of Candidacy forms. Elections will take place at the June 18, 2008, Commission meeting. Commissioners nominated from the floor must complete and submit a Declaration of Candidacy form to Commission Staff, no later than May 30, 2008.

STAFF REPORT

Ms. Rosemary Osuna, Commission Staff, reported the following:

- Sliding doors will be installed at the entrance of the Commission Services Division (Room B-50).
- A link to the Los Angeles County Office of Education (Special Education) site has been placed on the Commission's web page, as requested by the Commission.
- Two additional Sexual Harassment and Cultural Diversity Trainings have been confirmed for Commissioners who have not yet attended this mandatory training. Dates are to be determined.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Joan Taylor, Ed. D., Director for Senior Opportunities reported on the changes to the *Immediate Needs Transportation Program*. She encouraged Commissioners and meeting attendees to attend the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Board meeting scheduled for May 22, 2008 at 9:30 a.m. at One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012. At this meeting, the MTA Board will consider revisions to the Immediate Needs Program, resulting in a change in the expenditure ratio of bus tokens and taxi coupons to 50% bus tokens and 50% taxi coupons as recommended by the MTA's Planning and Programming Committee. Ms. Taylor requested everyone's support in opposition to the Committee's recommended changes to the program. She submitted written correspondence.

PRESENTATION ON GAS REFUELING BY MR. LARRY ALBERS

Mr. Larry Albers, Managing Director of Handiplate Research and Development Disabled Parking Central (HRDDPC), presented a video that posed the issues that motorists encounter when purchasing gas for their vehicles. He discussed the ADA requirement for gas refueling and how this requirement is often overlooked and difficult to enforce.

PRESENTATION ON GAS REFUELING BY MR. LARRY ALBERS (Cont.)

His video presented an idea of HRDDPC that would afford individuals with disabilities access to refueling services by a better means of communication between the gas station attendant and the disabled motorist. The process consists of gas stations displaying a sign (14 X 14 blue sign with the disabled international wheelchair logo), that when lit, would mean that services for disabled motorists are available. The driver would know that this gas station has a remote activated device that can be activated by the disabled consumer's device causing the attendant to know with certainty that a person needs refueling assistance. Both the disabled individual and the gas station attendant would need the remote devices to communicate. Equipment needed would include a disabled placard and signage, and a remote activated device for both the gas station and the disabled motorists.

Mr. Albers requested a letter of endorsement from the Commission for this project. Commissioners requested that Mr. Albers provide a copy of his video presentation on gas refueling.

After discussion, on motion of Commissioner Rubenstein, seconded by Commissioner Troost, and unanimously carried, the Commission approved to write a letter of support for Mr. Albers' gas refueling concept.

(1st Vice President Neal joined the meeting.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee

President Weller reported that the Committee met last month and discussed the Bill Tainter Scholarship Program, applications received to date, and the planning of the Access Awards Luncheon. She added that an Executive Committee meeting would take place today following the Commission meeting.

Public Relations Committee

Disability Network Radio Program KTYM 1460 AM

1st Vice President Neal reported that the radio program is doing well. She noted that discussion on captioning the "Disability Network Program" continues, and the Commission will be kept current on any developments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont.)

2nd Vice President Rubenstein reported the following:

- This year the Abilities Expo for Southern California is scheduled for May 30th through June 9th at the Anaheim Convention Center. Free tickets are available and can be obtained by contacting him.
- The Committee will participate with an information table at the 2008 Summer Games, Special Olympics, scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 14th and 15th at the Bill Fields Expo Park at California State University, Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90840.

Events Committee

Access Awards Luncheon

1st Vice President Neal reported the following:

- She and Commission Staff visited the Kyoto Grand Hotel and Gardens and met with the events coordinator. The hotel is offering its largest meeting room for the event.
- Based on the ticket sales last year, the Commission will have to consider a venue with greater capacity.
- She would like the Commission to acknowledge key individuals who have made special contributions towards the success of the Access Luncheons throughout the years.

Community Service

1st Vice President Neal thanked all Commissioners who have attended and participated in the Committees. She reported that she filed an American with Disabilities Act (ADA) Title II Complaint Form with the Los Angeles County Office of Affirmative Action Compliance against the Renaissance Faire that took place at the County Park Facility (Santa Fe Dam), from April to May 2008. At this event, accessible parking was available; however multiple accessible parking spaces were blocked off and marked "Reserved for Government," which resulted in fewer accessible parking spaces available than those required by law. Mr. Gordon Anthony, Senior Deputy Compliance Officer, Office of Affirmative Action Compliance will assist with the filing process.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont.)

Nominating Committee

Commissioner Troost, Chair of the Nominating Committee reported the following slate of Officers for 2008-09:

- President - Kecia B. Weller
- 1st Vice President - Janet A. Neal
- 2nd Vice President - Maria Mustelier-Parrish
- Treasurer – Bernard Siegel

President Weller thanked Commissioner Troost for chairing the Nominating Committee this year.

Transportation Committee

ASI Report – Teddie-Joy Remhild

Ms. Remhild reported that she attended the ASI Board of Directors meeting on May 19, 2008, and added that the ASI Board:

- Approved a three-year contract for transportation services in the San Fernando Valley to MV Transportation, commencing on May 1, 2008, and ending July 31, 2013. Ms. Remhild shared that her dealings with MV Transportation have always been satisfactory.
- Conducted a review of the Chief Executive's performance; however the results are not yet available.
- Received and filed a status report on the implementation of the audit recommendations from the "Report on the Evaluation of the Paratransit Eligibility Process; Administration, Performance, and Management of Paratransit Operations; and Compliance with the Memorandum of Understanding."
- Approved changes to the recertification process that would waive the recertification process for individuals that were certified as eligible riders and whose condition is determined to be unchangeable or who reach the age of 75.

COMMITTEE REPORTS (Cont.)

Ms. Remhild added that she has enjoyed representing the Commission on Disabilities on the ASI Board for the past six years, and she thanked the Commission for affording her this opportunity.

President Weller presented Ms. Remhild with a Certificate of Appreciation for her commitment and dedication in representing the Commission on the ASI Board.

Procedure for Selecting ASI Board Representative (Consideration of Applicants)

1st Vice Chair Neal reported that the Transportation Committee discussed the process in which an individual would be appointed to the Access Services, Inc. Board of Directors to represent the Commission on Disabilities. It was determined that individuals are to submit a resumé and two recommendation letters. Candidates will be scheduled for interviews. To date, three applications were received.

REPORT OF ANTHONY GORDON, SENIOR DEPUTY COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Mr. Anthony attended the meeting briefly and delivered a status report on the accomplishments of the Disability Civil Rights Section for Fiscal Year 2007-08 with the Transition and Self-Evaluation Plans for 15 pilot County Departments. He requested that copies of his report be sent to Commissioners and filed with Commission Services. Individuals interested in viewing the report may contact Commission Staff at (213) 974-1053 or email laccod@bos.lacounty.gov to obtain a copy.

ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA

1st Vice President Neal, 2nd Vice President Rubenstein, and Commissioners Mustelier-Parrish and Wright requested that the following items be placed on a future agenda for discussion:

- Status of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Multi-Service Ambulatory Care Center and services provided to *Medi-Cal* patients.
- Products that would improve the visibility of individuals with wheelchairs, i.e. jacket with reflective strips, and the potential for the Commission to purchase and sell such products as fundraisers.

**ITEMS NOT POSTED FOR CONSIDERATION ON A FUTURE AGENDA
(Cont.)**

- Invitation to Mr. Bill Britt, a resident in Long Beach to speak to the Commission on the following issues: 1) the Long Beach Library and the special accommodations that people with disabilities are provided to facilitate access to library services, and 2) mental health issues and the use of *Medical Marijuana* as a pain alternative.
- Incidents of abuse to children with disabilities.
- The possibility of having a Commissioners' retreat for the benefit of newly appointed Commissioners.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Pomerantz announced that on May 20, 2008, a federal appeals court ruled that the U.S. Department of Treasury discriminates because it has failed to design and issue paper currency that is readily distinguishable by people who are blind. The Federal Appeals Court ruling was based on the fact that it rejected the Treasury Department's arguments that making currency accessible would impose an undue burden on the government.

1st Vice President Neal announced that May is the Elher Danlos Syndrome Awareness Month.

2nd Vice President Rubenstein announced that the 2008 Summer Games, Special Olympics are scheduled for Saturday and Sunday, June 14th and 15th at the Bill Fields Expo Park at California State University, Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90840. He asked Commissioners to participate at the event as he will be staffing a table.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, on motion of 1st Vice President Neal, seconded by Commissioner Pomerantz, and unanimously carried, President Weller adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m. in memory of Ms. Darlene Dufau Reid at the request of Commissioner Troost.

ATTENDANCE

Present

Kecia B. Weller, President
Janet A. Neal, 1st Vice President
Harley D. Rubenstein, 2nd Vice President
Bernard Siegel, Treasurer
Mary Chambers
Maria Mustelier-Parrish
Donna Pomerantz
Alexia Teran
John B. Troost
Sheila Wright
Steven Thompson for Wan-Chun Chang

Excused Absence

None

Unexcused Absence

Wendy L. Welt

Board of Supervisors

Rosemary Osuna, Staff
Martha Arana, Staff
Audra Galang, Staff

Los Angeles County

Gordon Anthony, OAAC

Access Services, Inc.

Teddie-Joy Remhild
Arun Prem

Guests

Larry Albers, Director
Handiplate Research and Development Disabled Parking Central
Laura Ripplinger, Lifesigns, Inc.
Jonathan Gleicher, Lifesigns, Inc.
Sharene Ramirez, Total Recall Captioning
Joan Taylor, Senior Opportunities
Magda Carrero, East Los Angeles Regional Center
Jesse Padilla, East Los Angeles Regional Center
Carolyn McDow
Susan Susman
Sandy Varga
Marvin White